

V.I.B.E. NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S PROSE

I have enjoyed helping at several events, the Nationals at Leamington Spa and then Hastings where I held coaching sessions for new players who played well and gained in confidence. Both these events were supported by the local Lions assisting players for a second year. Their help at these tournaments has been requested for 2018 and is greatly appreciated.

Sadly, I was unable to attend the UK VI indoor bowls tournament in Scotland due to a family bereavement. I also attended the funerals of Life members, Lyndon Stevens of Cheltenham & Gloucestershire bowls club and Hugh Swain of Bristol clubs on behalf of VIBE.

Congratulations to David Stott and Doreen Metcalf as the England team did well in Scotland and Cape Town.

Following the World championship in Cape Town South Africa a picture and story of the England team was published in the National Lions magazine. The August/September edition can be viewed on the Lions club website: <http://lionsclubs.co/MemberArea/?p=383>

The Lions Club of Weston Super Mare, who organise the Weston super Mare Open V.I. Bowls Tournament, are considering a donation to VIBE to support the next world Championships in 2021 in Australia.

I hope to meet many of you in 2018, especially at the Nationals, in preparation for the world championships.

Happy bowling and Merry Christmas
V.I.B.E. President, Clive Robinson.

Merry
Christmas

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Your committee recently invited Chris Price to take up a co-opted committee position to support us with our fundraising activities. This will, hopefully, supplement the excellent work Bernie Robinson and others already do for the Association.

On a different note, we had a generous offer from Israel to join them for an international challenge next May. However, this would mean a number of bowlers finishing the Weston tournament on 6 May, then flying to Israel on 7 May. Beside this fact there are the Nationals and the UK singles in June. All these incur considerable cost for individuals. I am hoping no-one is too disappointed when I inform you that our committee took the decision, on this occasion, to decline this kind offer.

Wishing you all good bowling, good health and a very happy Christmas.



FROM THE V.I.B.E. TEAM MANAGER

Appeal to the Membership from the Team Manager

Although 2021 sounds a long way off, it isn't really, and the intervening months will fly by. In late February / early March 2021, VIBE will be sending a team to Gold Coast, Australia, to compete in the IBBA World Blind Bowls Championships. For those lucky enough to make it into the team, there can be no higher accolade than representing one's country and the competition to get there will be fierce.

In many other sports, international competition is paid for – indeed, some sports' competitors are professionals – but, for VIBE members it has always been the case that individuals have had to pay for the privilege of representing their country.

This, I believe, is no longer sustainable – given the costs involved. Each team member for Australia will be looking at something in the order of £3500 and there are those who have already started saving in anticipation of getting into the team. Should they eventually not make it, they should at least have a nice little ‘nest egg’ built up.

My appeal to you, the ‘grass roots members’ of VIBE, is for you to do something, once or twice a year, to help raise funds for VIBE which can then be used to reduce the amount each of your representatives have to find out of their own pockets / efforts for the privilege of representing us all, and the nation, on the greens. You might hold a coffee morning, a bring-and-buy, a jumble sale, run a car-boot stall, have a book sale whatever. If you could donate the proceeds to VIBE – cheques payable to VIBE (marked Team Account on the reverse) and sent to: Steve Simmons, 5 Alice Thompson Close, off Marvels Lane, Grove Park, LONDON SE12 9PW – we would be very grateful.

However small your donations, they will all add up over time. If each individual member could raise just £20 per year, over the next 3 years, this would go a long way towards supporting the team.

Thank you in anticipation, David Stott, VIBE Team Manager.

HASTINGS REPORT: by Gail Hepworth:

The 51st Annual Blind Bowls Tournament took place between 16th - 21st July. The Open Singles was played in four groups on a Round Robin basis giving everyone plenty of games.

Group 1 was won by Bob Rossiter winning all of his games.

Group 2 was won by Gareth Harwood also winning all his games.

Group 3 was won by Chris Price who lost one game but won through on shot difference.

Group 4 was won by Gail Hepworth who also won all her games.

The semi-final saw Bob Rossiter play Gareth Harwood, losing 7 - 21.

In the second semi-final Chris Price played Gail Hepworth and lost 11 - 15.

The final saw Gareth Harwood winning over Gail Hepworth 21 - 14.

The Pairs were split into two groups with the winners of group 1 Chris Price and Adrian Mears playing group 2 winners Scott Valance and Paul Davis. The winners were Chris Price and Adrian Mears 16 - 9.

The Triples were split into two groups the winners of group 1, Gareth Harwood, Keith Collins, Marjorie Convey beating group 2 winners, Scott Vallance, Paul Davis, Adrian Mears 19 -5.

There was a Round Robin for the B1's, the runner-up was Amit Amin and the winner Eric Gallacher.

The presentation was held on Friday night at the club house where a wonderful buffet had been prepared by the ladies who had worked very hard all week keeping everyone fed and watered.

ARDROSSAN TRI AM NOV 2017

Team Managers' report by Doreen Metcalfe:

The team arrived safe well and tired after a long journey but a few of us managed to get a roll up on the Thursday evening. All but one stayed in the same hotel, which was quite a way from the bowls venue, so as transport was varied, a few opted to use public transport and some taxi.

DAY 1. We had the opening ceremony, welcome from the venue's club president and the greens were handed over for the games to begin. We had a good day of bowls and finished with a lovely meal at the venue.

DAY 2. Another day's bowling but results were not as good as day one. A very tight competition with only a few points between England and Scotland for the team trophy. At end of play four teams were on same points with only shot difference separating them.

DAY 3. final day and England doing well. A really good days bowls and going into the last session it was still not clear who was ahead in both the team trophy or the medals.

RESULTS: ENGLAND WON THE TEAM TROPHY by 3 points and the **GOLD MEDAL** by 1 shot. ISRAEL TOOK THE SILVER MEDAL AND SCOTLAND THE BRONZE. What a great final session from ENGLAND. The winning team were: David Mears, Adrian Mears, Ron Homer with Moria Sheehan directing.



As this was my 1st outing as Team Manager, I would like to thank the England team for all their great bowling and support during the competition, and the committee for giving me this great opportunity.

V
I
B
E
Bows
England

Falaise Indoor Bowls Club
Hastings

Twelve hour charity day 21st January 2018
10am-10pm
To raise money for
Visual Impaired Bowls England Players

Towards costs of the
England Team when travelling
nationally or internationally

To get involved or help contact:
justgiving.com/groupfunding/visuallyimpairedbowls

Visually **I**mpaired **B**owls **E**ngland
Registered Charity No 273134 Affiliated to I.B.B.A.

FUNDRAISING

Chris Price and Mark Bilsby have been fundraising for V.I.B.E., organising events and collections. The Committee thank them for their efforts and hope that members will support them.

Also, please support Bernadette Robinson who works hard holding the raffles at VI.B.E. events.



REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Committee Members: Chairman, David Mears; Vice Chairman, Gail Hepworth; Treasurer, Secretary, Sylvia Cook; Members' Representative, Ron Homer; Adrian Mears; Doreen Metcalf; President, Clive Robinson; Team Manager, David Stott.

In October, two meetings were held in Glasgow (not the full committee).

Main items discussed were:

- The teams to play in the Tri-Am in Ardrossan in November
- Discussion concerning the revised Constitution and Standing Orders to be brought to the AGM in April.
- Fundraising and Charity matches
- Confirmation that David Stott would continue as Team Manager.

A meeting was held on 11 November at the RNIB in London with the full committee:

- The Pairs and Triples Entry Forms
- Treasurer's Report on the finances of VIBE
- Upcoming Tournaments (See "Diary Dates") below
- Sight Classifications
- Information from DBE – affecting V.I.B.E.
- Long Playing Rules & Conditions – to submit at the AGM
- Proposal for additional amendment to Standing Orders for AGM
- Code of Conduct for major competitions to discuss at next meeting in January 2018
- Team selection changes to be proposed at AGM
- Promoting & Developing V.I. Bowls to be discussed at next meeting.

REMINDERS FROM THE SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Please be aware that membership fees are due for renewal in January 2018, except, of course, for those that hold life memberships.

Please may we ask that you renew your membership promptly. We are also aware, as your Committee, that there are new data protection rules coming into force in 2018 and, you can be assured, your details will be kept securely and will not be shared without your permission.

If you have recently changed any of your contact details or do so in the future, please do let me know so that we can keep records up to date and

ensure you are receiving the communications. My email is sylvia.cook@sky.com or you can telephone me on 01934 204690.

2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

17/18 Feb	VIBE INDOOR PAIRS	NOTTINGHAM IBC
17/18 March	VIBE INDOOR TRIPLES	TAUNTON DEANE
14 April	<u>VIBE AGM</u>	RNIB London
3-6 May	Weston-super-Mare VI Tournament	Clarence BC
8-10 June	DBE Home Nations	Clarence BC
14-16 Jun	UK VI Outdoor Singles	Llandrindod Wells
24-29 Jun	VIBE NATIONALS	LEAMINGTON SPA
15-20 July	Hastings VI Tournament	Hastings
20-23 Aug	VIBE Outdoor Triples	Worthing

(Also listed on the V.I.B.E. website where you can access entry forms).

STOP PRESS.....

Applications are now invited for the position of Assistant Team Manager to serve for the coming four years. Such application should indicate the skills that you have to carry out the role effectively. These should be received by the Secretary no later than 3 January 2018.

Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year